Loss suffered by Rourkela Steel Plant due to Labour Unrest

1855. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rourkela Steel Pant has suffered production loss owing to frequent labour unrest in the plant :

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure complete industrial peace at the Plant : and

(c) How many recognised unions are there in the Plant and the strength of each ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) While no production loss has been suffered in the current year so far due to industrial unrest, RSP has in the past years suffered such losses. RSP have an effective industrial relations management system in which issues and disputes relating to labour are discussed and resolved. There are several committees at the plant level where labour and management interface and informal discussions are also held periodically with both recognised and non-recognised unions. These have helped in containing the labour problems and improving industrial relations.

(c) There is only one recognised union in the plant, i.e., Rourkela Mazdoor Sabha. Its strength is not known as member-ship has not been verified recently.

Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

1856. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to go in for global tenders for the second phase of modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) when tenders for the first phase modernisation were invited from West Germany and the conditions mentioned in the said tender;

(d) the tenders quoted by West German companies; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned for the second phase of modernisation of the Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) Government have decided to float global tenders for the foreign packages of this project, since the earlier floating of tenders within West Germany alone did not generate competition and also the prices and foreign exchange component quoted by the tenderers were much higher than estimates.

(c) and (d) All the packages of first phase of RSP modernisation were indigenous packages. Therefore no tenders were invited from West Germany.

(e) The amount sanctioned for total modernisation (Phase I plus Phase II) of Rourkela Steel Plant is Rs. 2461 crores which includes Rs. 673 crores as the updated cost estimates of Phase I.

INTUC's Demand for waiving of loans for Agricultural and Industrial labourers

1857. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indian National Trade Union

Congress has demanded for the inclusion of agricultural and industrial labour in the scheme loan waiving upto Rs. 10,000/-; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Government of India have formulated the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 for providing debt relief to farmers, landless cultivators, artisans and weavers upto Rs. 10,000/-by public sector banks and regional rural banks. For the operation of the Scheme, Government of India have taken into account suggestions and demands put forth by the State Government and other forums/ organisations in so far as they are practicable in the implementation of the Scheme.

Setting up of National Rural Banking Corporation

1858. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a National Rural Banking Corporation for meeting the entire fund requirement for rural development programme;

(b) if so, what are the details of such programme;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum from All India Regional Rural Banking Employees Association to this effect; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The suggestions received from various forums/organisations for improving the institutional arrangements for surveying rural credit are considered by the Government, Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and appropriate decisions taken where warranted.

Irrigation projects from Andhra Pradesh pending clearance

1859. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of medium irrigation projects from Andhra Pradesh are pending with the Central Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) For the three medium irrigation projects, namely, Modikuntavagu, Palemvagu and Yerravagu, estimated to cost about Rs. 31.9, Rs. 21.1 and Rs. 7.7 crores and envisaging irrigation benefits to about 6600, 4900 and 2450 hectares respectively, received at the Centre from January, 1989 to March, 1989, the State Government is required, among others, to comply with the observations of Central appraising agencies and to obtain appropriate forest clearance.

Internal and external debt of the country

1860. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE